

**REDACTED VERSION
PURSUANT TO 35-A M.R.S.A. § 704(5)**

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2000-981

December 19, 2000

APPEAL OF CONSUMER ASSISTANCE
DIVISION

ORDER

Decision #2000-981 Regarding
Central Maine Power Company

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

I. SUMMARY

In this Order we uphold the decision of the Consumer Assistance Division (CAD) finding **[customer]** owes \$668.66 to Central Maine Power Company (CMP).

II. BACKGROUND

[Customer] established electric service at his residence on June 30, 1998. CMP's records indicate that **[customer]** terminated his account at that location on December 9, 1999. A balance of \$668.66 was outstanding at that time. **[Customer]** claims he moved out in July 1998 and that his roommate continued to live there and paid the bills until he moved out in April 1999. He disputes that he is responsible for the amount outstanding. CAD found **[customer]** responsible for \$668.66. He appealed that decision to the Commission on December 1, 2000.

III. DECISION

A customer is responsible for paying for any electrical usage incurred while an account is in that customer's name. It is not a utility's responsibility to investigate who may have been using the electricity during any period of time. There are no records that indicate **[customer]** called any time prior to December 1999 to terminate the account and **[customer]** does not dispute that he terminated the account in December 1999. A customer should immediately contact a utility if he changes residences so that the utility knows the customer is no longer responsible for the bill. That did not occur here. Therefore, we uphold the decision of CAD finding that **[customer]** owes the \$668.66 outstanding on his account at the time he notified CMP, and decline to investigate this matter further.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 19th day of December, 2000.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
 Nugent
 Diamond

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73, et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.